

REMARKS

Claims 1-22, 32-41 and 44-45 are presented for examination. Claims 23-31 and 42-43 are canceled by this Amendment. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and allowance of the application.

Reason for Entry of Amendments

The amendments to claims 1, 11 and 32 after final rejection presented herein are filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination. No new matter is added by these amendments.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-22, 32-41 and 44-45 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *John, Jr. et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,478,903) in view of *Brun* (U.S. Pat. No. 2,111,203). Applicants respectfully traverse.

In the rejection, the Examiner concedes that *John* fails to disclose a primer mixture including bismuth oxide. The Examiner then states that *Brun* discloses the use of bismuth trioxide as a catalyst, and that it would have been obvious to add bismuth trioxide to *John's* primer mixture in the same capacity.

As is well known in the ammunition industry, when present, catalysts are used in relatively small amounts. *Brun* discloses a typical catalyst amount as rarely exceeding "2% of the entire mixture" (column 2, lines 31-34). By contrast, amended claims 1, 11 and 32 recite bismuth oxide in an amount of "at least 15% by weight of the priming mixture."

Because *Brun* only teaches the use of bismuth trioxide in catalytic amounts, *Brun* cannot be combined with *John* to render amended claims 1, 11 or 32 obvious. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC § 103(a) based on *John* and *Brun*.

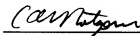
CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections of the claims as set forth in the Final Office Action have been addressed and overcome. Applicants further respectfully assert that all claims are in condition for allowance and request that an early notice of allowance be issued.

If issues may be resolved through Examiner's Amendment, or clarified in any manner, please call the undersigned attorney at (404) 879-2443.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 09-0528.

Respectfully submitted,



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